

If the general layout of the plant and the arrangement of the site is such that this scheme cannot be adopted, the use of an automatic railway may be considered, as described below.

By Automatic Railway.—In certain cases it is not possible to adept the scheme of sidings direct to the bunkers referred to above, as, although the contour of the ground may be suitable, the relative positions of the railway company's sidings and the power station coal bunkers may

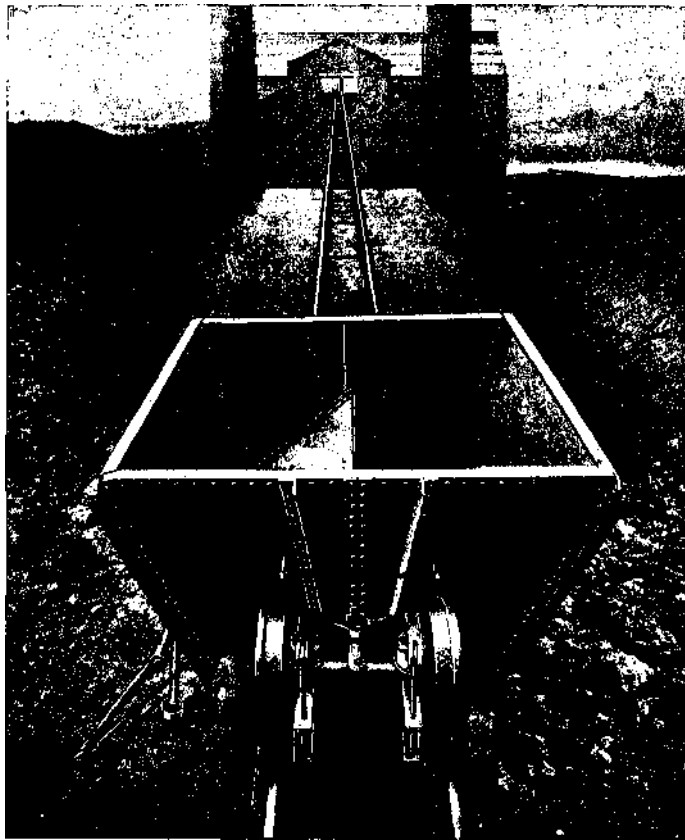


Fig. 2.—Automatic Railway. Capacity of automatic car, 1 ton = 50 tons per hour

be such that sidings cannot be arranged. In these cases it is often found convenient to install an automatic railway, one example of which is shown in figs. 1 and 2. This plant is manufactured by Messrs. Babcock & Wilcox, and is arranged so that the gradient of the railway is sufficient to allow the descending loaded car to supply the power necessary for returning it to the starting-point when empty.

The makers state that a 3 per cent gradient is sufficient for running, dumping, and returning the car to the filling station. The automatic railway may be as long as 600 ft. or more, and the full car

is simply started